

CHESTERFIELD CYCLE CAMPAIGN



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

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Bike Week: Ride to the Pie & Pea Supper

www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk

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...creating a nation of cycle-friendly communities

CAMPAIGN CHAT

In May, Derbyshire County Council announced funding for various projects to improve the countryside. Amongst these is an allocation of £30,000 to improve the canal towpath and Bluebank Loop at Brimington.

Following closure for over two years, a cycle path linking Hady Hill to Wain Avenue has finally re-opened. It was originally closed for the construction of the new flats on the corner of Hady Hill and Piccadilly Road but was not re-opened when construction finished.

Wilson Bowden, developers of the new Tesco store at Whittington Moor, have submitted a planning application to amend the proposed car park. Whilst its primary objective appears to be to improve the flow of cars, cyclists and pedestrians will also benefit.

A shared path, which was formerly broken by two zebra crossings, has now been re-routed around the perimeter of the site and provides a continuous route to the cycle

stands from the new Lockoford Lane junction. The Campaign's main concern is that the path appears to be only 2 metres wide, less than the 3 metre minimum recommended by the Cycle Infrastructure Design guidelines (section 8.5), and we have raised this point with Chesterfield Borough Council.

The Meadows School at Old Whittington has recently adopted a School Travel Plan and will use the money which accompanies such schemes to install bicycle parking facilities.

A poll of pupils had found that around 14% would like to cycle to school and Bikeability training is due to start in September. However, given that the school's catchment area also includes parts of Newbold, finding suitable cycle routes has presented a significant problem.

The combined obstacles of the A61 and railway line mean that east-west travel will involve using underpasses and negotiating under narrow bridges in areas of busy traffic. One possible route is to emerge

from Whittington Island underpass, cycle along Sheffield Road, up Broomhill Road, then cross the main road to access the school via the rear entrance off Ashcroft Drive. This would require a toucan crossing on High Street. Another route involves Whittington Hill, but the railway bridge is too narrow to make a cycle lane. If any members can think of a good route, could they please contact the Secretary?

Brookfield Community School on Chatsworth Road has submitted a planning application to erect three bicycle shelters on the premises. However, a decision on the application has been delayed due to objections on design grounds. As with Meadows School, pupils at Brookfield are due to receive Bikeability cycle training from September, with training to be delivered by two recently qualified members of the Campaign.

Prior to the Local and European elections on 4th June, Cambridge Cycle Campaign polled local representatives to discover their views on cycling and other local issues that impact on cycling. The results were revealing and very useful for voters wanting to elect the candidate most likely to further cycling prospects in their area. To see the questions posed, and answers from the various parties visit www.camcycle.org.uk and click 'Elections' in the menu. Could this be something worth trying for future elections in Chesterfield?

On 3rd June, Chesterfield Royal Hospital held an Improving Working Lives day, an initiative aimed at supporting staff and



Campaign stall at the Hospital

promoting welfare. The Campaign was invited to hold a stall to promote cycling in conjunction with the Hospital's Cycle to Work scheme launched in February this year.

The stall attracted a lot of interest and around 60 Chesterfield Cycle Maps were given away (paid for by the Hospital). Supplies of many of the other leaflets we hold were also exhausted, particularly the Five Pits Trail and Cycle Derbyshire maps. Interestingly, many hospital employees were unaware of the Cycle to Work scheme.

No new members were signed up on the day, but hopefully the publicity gained and the promotion of our Bike Week rides will encourage some of the visitors to join in the future.

Following our collaboration with the local Primary Care Trust, and their very generous sponsorship, during Bike Week the Campaign has been invited to participate in meetings of the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Community Sport Network. Our Treasurer, Phillip Leedham, volunteered to represent the Campaign.

Topics discussed at the June monthly meeting included the still-closed cycle paths on the Donkin site, the re-opening of the path at Hady Hill and the revised cycle path on the new Tesco site. The last newsletter and the 'Good for You' publicity leaflet were printed in colour thanks to sponsorship from the PCT and the Secretary helped with articles to promote cycling in three publications. The meeting also heard details of the objection submitted to CBC regarding the lack of cycle parking at the proposed Hollingwood Lock House renovation, and that the Royal Hospital at Calow will no longer be proceeding with the planned cycle tracks on the site due to lack of money.

Following an appeal for more volunteers at the June Campaign meeting, Megan Cook has now taken on the duties of Minutes Secretary.

The Campaign is proposing to buy two flat, mounted Ordnance Survey maps at 1:25 000 and 1:50 000 scales to use on the stall at events to help with the frequent requests from visitors for route information.

Work began in early July to improve the track linking the northern boundary of Chesterfield Royal Hospital with Wetlands Lane, Calow. The improvements took around 3 weeks with completion at the end of July.



Hospital Track from Wetlands Lane

This part of the work has only widened and surfaced the track as far as the entrance to Plover Hill Farm. The remaining section will be included in work to convert the Farm into a new housing development.

The Hospital is also in the process of building a car park extension and the cycle link investment has been secured by a condition of the planning approval.

Following previous uncertainty, we have received confirmation from Derbyshire County Council that cyclists may legitimately use Tapton Terrace, which connects Brimington Road and Crow Lane near to the

railway station.

Although privately maintainable by the residents, a 1967 agreement transferred ownership of the bridge over the River Rother and the approach road from Tapton Terrace from the British Railways Board to the Highway Authority at that time, confirming its status as a public highway.

On 18th July, Inkerman Park played host to a community event celebrating sustainability, environment and well-being. The Inkerman Buzz was organised jointly between the Walton and West Community Forum, Friends of the Inkerman, Transition Chesterfield and

Chesterfield Cycle Campaign. All visitors were asked to be 'car free'. Walking and cycling were encouraged and a free preserved bus from the town centre and Walton was arranged. No electricity was allowed on site unless generated by wind, solar or pedal. An estimated 600-700 visitors attended. The Campaign held its usual stall and Dr Bike, and 12 new members signed up on the day.

Originally planned as part of Bike Week, the rescheduled cycle promotion at North East Derbyshire District Council eventually took place on 22nd July. Interest in the promotion was poor, and the eight campaign members who turned up to help outnumbered the NEDDC staff who visited for information. Dr Bike checked the two staff bicycles that were there.

As part of a planning application for a new building and driving range, Tapton Golf Club are proposing to re-route a short section of the Trans Pennine Trail which runs through the golf course. Although the diverted route follows more difficult gradients,

there is the potential for cycling to be made easier if a better quality surface is laid. Trans Pennine Trail Officers are looking into the application and will respond once they have more information.

On Friday 31st July, Action Housing held another of its Fun Days at Queens Park. The Campaign had originally been lined up to attend with the stall, however due to a lack of volunteers and uncertainty about the weather – the Campaign does not own a gazebo to provide shelter at outdoor events – our attendance was withdrawn at the last minute.

In May 2008 the Campaign was invited to participate in an Accessibility Study, alongside Derbyshire County Council, Chesterfield Borough Council and Sustrans, with the aim of producing a Cycle Strategy for Chesterfield, Bolsover and NE Derbyshire. Following reorganisation at DCC earlier this year, the project seemed to have stalled. However, we are pleased to report that Catherine Jacobs, former Air Quality Officer at CBC, has now taken

the reins and progress will resume in September with a site visit to examine potential new cycling routes. The initial focus will be to define a north-south route between Dronfield and Grassmoor.

Sainsbury's have submitted a planning application to extend the store and which also involved relocation of the cycle racks. In the process, the number of racks would have been reduced from 22 to 9. For various reasons, the application has been refused.

Welcome to New Members

- Freya Smith (child), Tibshelf
- Adrian Hindle, North Wingfield
- Brian Rush, Hasland
- Sally Ludditt, Old Whittington
- Wendy Pinchbeck, Ashgate
- Melvin Tooker, New Whittington
- Alan & Karen Mustafa & family, Walton
- Ralph Cooper, Duckmanton
- John Heathcote, Hasland
- Maureen Barns, Brampton
- Amanda Chalk, Ashgate

BE MORE LIKE BOGOTA

In June, the BBC News website featured an interesting article about conditions for cycling in Bogota, the capital of Columbia. Since 1998, the mayor has made it one of his priorities to make life easier for pedestrians and cyclists.

Eleven years on, the city has expanded cycle paths and pedestrian zones and improved parks. Every Sunday and public holiday, over 120km of streets are closed to motor vehicles from 7am to 2pm and are used for walking, skating and cycling.

As well as making the city a nicer place, this has great benefits for the population's health. Scientists estimate about a third of the most common cancers could be prevented if people ate healthily, maintained a healthy weight and were regularly physically active.

To read the full article, visit
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8102621.stm>.

HELP WANTED!

Can you give some of your time to promote cycling and help the Campaign?

Whilst we appreciate the contribution that all members give, just by being members and cycling in Chesterfield, our efforts would be much less successful without the few core contributors who devote enormous amounts of their time



to representing the Campaign at events and meetings.

However, there have been occasions when opportunities have been missed due to a lack of volunteers. If possible, we would like more people to help with the following:

- Manning the Campaign stall at various events around Chesterfield
- Attending meetings to represent the interests of cycling
- Organising events like Family Rides, Bike Week activities and social meetings

Perhaps you can't help with these, but have other thoughts about how we can raise the profile of cycling in Chesterfield.

For instance:

- If you have children, encourage cycling at your local school.
- Offer help to your friends and neighbours with journey planning, show them where the good cycle routes are or give tips on carrying shopping.
- Ask your employers to offer the Cycle to Work scheme and help colleagues to start cycle commuting. Promote the

Scheme to other businesses when the opportunity arises.

- Communicate with local Councils on cycling issues – respond to consultations, report problems with cycle facilities, and show your appreciation when good facilities are constructed!

Let us know if you have other ideas or skills to offer! Even if you can't make an ongoing commitment, it's useful to have a pool of willing people who we can contact for help.

If you can lend a hand, then please give your contact details and suggestions to the Secretary.

CYCLE MAPPING FOR CHESTERFIELD

During 2010, the Campaign is proposing to update its Chesterfield Cycle Map. Stocks of the current edition, published in 2007 are running low, presenting us with the opportunity to incorporate new routes before reprinting.

Due to the prohibitive cost of buying a copyright licence, previous maps have been hand-drawn. However, a community project called **Open Street Map** is developing a free map, similar to Google Maps, that we will be able to use as a base.

As the map is being created by volunteers, there are still plenty of gaps in it. Chesterfield has reasonably good coverage but there are still areas to be finished off, so some Campaign members

are taking to the streets with GPS receivers and recording road locations and names.

Out of **Open Street Map**, several other projects have emerged which use the same underlying map data. Of particular interest to cyclists, **Open Cycle Map** overlays additional cycle-specific information such as the National Cycle Network. **Cyclestreets**, a project by Cambridge Cycle Campaign, plots cycle-specific routes with options for the fastest or quietest route.

To see how the map is progressing, and for more information, visit:

<http://www.openstreetmap.org/>
<http://www.opencyclemap.org/>
<http://chesterfield.cyclestreets.net/>

BIKE WEEK 2009

Once again, the Campaign has had a busy Bike Week in June with various activities organised throughout the event.



The week began with a stall and Dr Bike in New Square on Saturday 13th followed by another stall at the Royal Hospital in Calow on Tuesday 16th.

The planned stall at NEDDC on 17th June was postponed following a poor weather forecast and eventually took place on 22nd July.

On Friday 19th, a Critical Mass ride with around 45 participants took a tour of the town centre, which was then followed by a Pie & Pea supper at the Crispin Inn on Ashgate Road.

Glorious weather on Sunday 21st attracted 32 cyclists to our 10-mile 'Longest Day' ride along the Trans Pennine Trail via Inkersall, Staveley and the Chesterfield Canal.

Although technically not part of Bike Week, the rides also included an easy 4-mile circuit from Queens Park in the evening on Wednesday 24th, which attracted another 28 cyclists.

A video clip of the Longest Day Ride is available to view in the Video Gallery on the Campaign website.

DERBYSHIRE GREENWAYS

Across the county, Derbyshire County Council continues to invest in its network of Greenways.

These traffic-free paths connect Derbyshire's towns and villages and are suitable for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. In general, it costs in the region of £67,000 per kilometre of new build and then lower where a suitable sub-base exists.

Over the last 12 months, projects have included:

- Temple Normanton Link: A new path, over a mile long, costing £110,000 and providing a new access point to the Five Pits Trail.
- Beighton to Staveley Resurfacing: £150,000 renovation of a 4 Km section of the popular Trans Pennine Trail route to Rother Valley Country Park.
- Wingerworth Greenway Link: £32,000 upgrade of an existing half-mile path to bring it up to Greenway standard.

- Newton Link to Silverhill Trail: A new access point for the Silverhill Trail which connects the south end of the Five Pits Trail to the Teversal Trail in Nottinghamshire.

This financial year, we can also expect to see an upgrade to the Bluebank Loop at Brimington.

The works will be of similar standard to the Beighton to Staveley section, with this being the standard DCC attempts to achieve on all Greenway routes.



Widened track on the Trans Pennine Trail

THE WORLD NAKED BIKE RIDE

June 13th, 2009: Imagine a large group of cyclists riding round Central London naked on a beautiful sunny day. The police clear the route for them, stopping the traffic as they cycle through red traffic lights. Crowds line the pavements clapping and cheering.

The aims of the World Naked Bike Ride are to protest against the global dependency on oil, to curb car culture, to obtain real rights for cyclists especially on city streets and celebrate body freedom. The first London World Naked Bike Ride was held on 12th June 2004. Fifty-eight cyclists rode naked through Hyde Park. The police were tolerant, there were no arrests, and the public enjoyed the event. The protest took to the streets the following year and has grown bigger each year.

This year it was reported that there were 1,200 people taking part. The organisers say, "Go as bare as you dare" so many folk set off scantily dressed but we spotted them removing clothes as they went round. Many participants were body painted, some with a simple slogan, others covered in intricate designs. There were people on skates and people on bikes.

Every sort of bike you can imagine including unicycles and trikes. There were young folk and old, male and female and mostly nude.

The watching crowd were friendly: a mixture of tourists, voyeurs and the curious. Dozens of mobile phone cameras were pointed at the cyclists. Many of the crowd had been to see the Trouping of the Colour earlier in the day and perhaps this was the finalé! They cheered, waved, whooped, whistled and clapped.

The start was at Hyde Park Corner. The route first went along Piccadilly. We could see that naked bodies filled the wide road from Hyde Park Corner to the Ritz! On they went round Eros and down to Trafalgar Square, then down Whitehall, past Parliament and over Westminster Bridge. Past Waterloo Station and back over Waterloo Bridge. Round

Aldwych and past the Old Bailey. Then on to Holborn, past Centre Point and onto Oxford Street. In our experience, it takes a lot to stop the British from shopping but we think this event did it. Crowds lined the pavement and sometimes spilled out into the road. Then on to Regents Street, Hanover Square and past the American Embassy. A final short cruise

down Park Lane took the riders to the finish at the Wellington Memorial at Hyde Park Corner. The six-mile ride took about an hour-and-a-half.

Did we dare to join in? You will have to ask us at one of the Chesterfield Cycle Campaign socials or rides.

John and Barbara Lower
Campaign Members

DONKIN SITE CYCLE PATHS

Although the new B&Q store, on the former Bryan Donkin site, has now been open since April there is still no news on when the new cycle paths through the site will be officially open.

In June, several members responded to a Campaign appeal to contact Chesterfield Borough Council to complain about the ongoing inaccessibility of the paths.

In part, the opening has been held up by work to the new skate park which is proving to be extremely popular. However, further delays are being caused by the Percent for Art project which requires large developments to invest in a public artwork.

In this case, it will take the form

of a decorative lighting scheme and planning officials met on 29th June to discuss the proposals. All of the work must be complete before Derbyshire County Council will adopt the paths and, at the time of writing, we still don't know how much longer this remaining work is going to take.

Following pressure from the Campaign, the two paths off Hipper Street South have been opened, but entrances at Park Road and Baden Powell Road are still closed.

HOLLINGWOOD LOCK HOUSE

Towards the end of May, Derbyshire County Council submitted a planning application to renovate the former lock keeper's cottage at Hollingwood Lock on the Chesterfield Canal.



The proposals involve extending the disused building and converting it to a community use facility with offices and a multi purpose space. On the other side of the canal, a car park with 32 spaces would be built, having its entrance on Station Road.

The site is uniquely positioned on a major cycling and walking route - the Trans Pennine Trail and Route 67 of the National

Cycle Network. This makes it easily accessible by sustainable transport modes. Despite this, the development contained no plans to provide any cycle parking facilities alongside the car parking.

The Campaign objected to the application on the basis that it didn't meet the requirements of the Chesterfield Borough Local Plan to provide cycle parking at a minimum rate of 5% of car

parking provision. We recommended that the minimum requirement should be exceeded in this case, given its potential for high levels of cycling, and offered suggestions to encourage siting in a convenient and secure location.

DCC has since replied to our objections and assured us that 3 Sheffield stands, providing

parking for 6 bicycles, will be situated near to the Lock House. This is disappointing considering the potential for large numbers of cyclist visitors, and evidence of demand at Tapton Lock exceeding the available parking there.

Planning permission was granted on 3rd August.

NEW CYCLE-RAIL FACILITY IN LEEDS

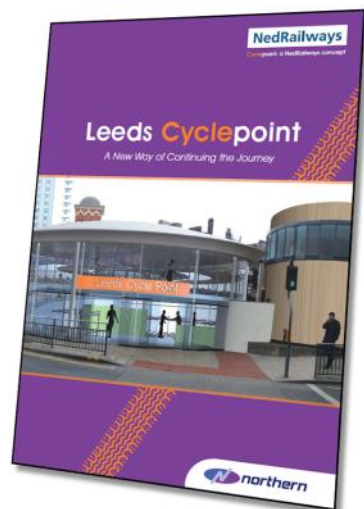
Northern Rail, part owned by Netherlands rail company NedRailways, is planning to launch a new type of cycle facility at Leeds Station.

Cyclepoint is based on a proven Dutch concept which combines manned and secure cycle storage with retail, repair and hire facilities. Northern's aim is to make their services easier to use by improving access to and from the network, and to offer the most environmentally friendly, sustainable transport option possible.

The pilot in Leeds is planned to open in Spring/Summer 2010 with the possibility of further Cyclepoints at major stations

across the UK if the scheme proves to be successful. For more information, download the Cyclepoint brochure here:

http://www.northernrail.org/pdfs/press/Cyclepoint_Brochure.pdf



DEMA SITE PROGRESS

The campaign has objected to a Travel Plan submission relating to Plot 3, the mixed-use development to include KFC, on the Dema development site. The Plan significantly over-exaggerates the accessibility of the site by bicycle. The key claims are:

1. *Chesterfield, Staveley, Brimington and Dronfield are all within reasonable cycling distance.*

Possibly true for fit, experienced cyclists but the steep hills and busy roads from Dronfield and Staveley are unlikely to tempt new cyclists to abandon their cars.

2. *The site has good links with the National Cycle Network which provides a traffic-free link with the town centre along the Chesterfield Canal.*

Currently, no link exists with the NCN, and the Brimington Road section certainly isn't traffic-free. In addition, the canal towpath is rough, often muddy and, in some places, too narrow for two cyclists to pass each other.

3. *There are advisory cycle lanes along both sides of Sheffield Road between the town centre and Whittington Moor roundabout.*

This statement gives the impression of a better facility than exists in reality. The advisory lanes are intermittent, worn out in some places, do not reach the town centre and are frequently blocked by parked cars. As an extremely busy road, this route is also unlikely to attract new cyclists.

The Campaign has suggested that conversion of the public footpath between Canal Wharf and Lockoford Lane would provide a more attractive, quiet route with much better potential to attract new cyclists.

Toucan Crossings

The toucan crossings over Lockoford Lane have now been installed, with the aim of allowing cyclists to reach the A61 underpass via a shared facility along the pavement. However, now that the posts are in, it is clear to see just how little space is available both along the

path itself and in turning a bicycle onto the path from the crossing, especially when carrying pannier bags.

The Cycle Infrastructure Guidelines recommend a minimum width of 3 metres for a shared facility and Derbyshire County Council itself aims for a minimum of 2.7 metres. Derbyshire County Council are investigating options to create more space from adjacent land, but the Campaign fears that the inadequate space might lead to the proposed cycle facility being abandoned.



New toucan crossing and narrow shared path

Given the extensive, and presumably costly, road works that have taken place on Lockoford Lane over the last few months, surely it would

have been a proportionately small matter to widen the pavement at the same time to provide a good quality cycle facility from the outset.

Autumn Events

Saturday September 19th, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. Indoor Cycling Open Day at Queen's Park Leisure Centre. The Campaign has been invited to hold a stall but **volunteers are required**. Please contact the Secretary if you can help.

Tuesday September 22nd, European Car Free Day. Cyclists' Breakfast - see website for announcement of details. A Critical Mass Ride often takes place on this day too.

OTHER CYCLING NEWS

Safety in Numbers

CTC has launched its 'Safety in Numbers' campaign which highlights how cyclist risk reduces as more people participate. Possible reasons for this effect are thought to be:

- Greater awareness of cyclists amongst drivers
- More likelihood of drivers being cyclists themselves
- Greater political will to improve cycling conditions

The Government has adopted a target to halve the risks of cycling in its draft Road Safety Strategy, A Safer Way. CTC believes this can be achieved by introducing measures to double levels of cycling.

More information on CTC's website at: www.ctc.org.uk

POLICY & FINANCE

Chair: Joe Clark

Vice Chair: Chris Allen

Secretary: Alastair Meikle, 01246 520820
secretary@chesterfieldcc.org.uk

Treasurer: Phillip Leedham

Committee Member: Barry Kay,
01246 555943

Sustainable Travel City

Greater Manchester has submitted a bid for £29million to fund an ambitious project to encourage smarter travel choices. The proposals include:

- Five flagship cycle centres providing facilities like secure parking, changing and shower rooms, maintenance workshops and information.
- Individual travel planning to one in five households.
- Business advice, help and grants promoting cycling and public transport.
- Major event travel planning, travel to school plans, car sharing initiatives and more.

For more details visit

<http://www.bikeforall.net/news.php?articleshow=694>

MEMBERSHIP & PUBLICITY

Membership: Pam Kay, 01246 555943

Website: Robert Kirby
webmaster@chesterfieldcc.org.uk

Newsletter: Nicola Peck
newsletter@chesterfieldcc.org.uk

Publicity & Transition Town Liaison:
Jessie Marcham
hello@transitionchesterfield.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual Accounts

The Campaign's financial year ended on 30th June, 2009.

Audited accounts will be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 13th October 2009 in Meeting Room 1 at the Market Hall

commencing at 7.30 pm. Copies of the accounts will be available for all members at that meeting.

After that date any member wishing to receive a copy should contact the Campaign Treasurer, Phillip Leedham, by email at *pleedham@surplusbrokers.co.uk*.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 13TH OCTOBER 2009

At the Annual General Meeting officers of the Campaign are elected. Nominations should be submitted to the Campaign Secretary, Alastair Meikle, 4 Inkerman Cottages, Chesterfield S40 4BP in writing or by email by 11th October.

The following form may be used:

I hereby nominate _____ (Name) to stand as
_____ (Office) for

Chesterfield Cycle Campaign for the twelve months commencing 13th October 2009.

Signed _____ Date _____

Print Name _____ Membership No. _____

Campaign Officers:

Chair/Secretary/Membership Secretary/Vice-Chair/Rides, routes
Social Secretary/Newsletter Editor/Minutes Secretary/Other

GET INVOLVED!

Campaign Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Urban Studies Room at the Market Hall Chesterfield. The next meetings are on 8th September, 13th October, 10th November and 8th December.

Greendrinks is an informal gathering of 'green' minded people and takes place on the first Wednesday of each month from 7.00pm at Chandler's Bar, St. Mary's Gate, Chesterfield.

Visit the forum on our website at www.chesterfieldcc.org.uk to contribute your ideas and opinions.

To report road faults, telephone Derbyshire County Council on 08456 058 058.

Membership Form

Full Name Tel

Address

.....

Email

Membership Type (please tick)

Adult, £5 [] Family, £10* []

Unwaged, £2.50 [] Under 18, £1 []

Optional donations welcome.....[£]

* Family membership includes 2 adults and all children under 18 living at the same address. Please give names and ages of all children below:

Please send this form, together with a cheque or P.O., payable to "Chesterfield Cycle Campaign" to: CCC Membership Secretary, 9 Ashgate Avenue, Chesterfield, S40 1JB.

NB. These details will be stored on computer.